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DEQ and EPA sign agreement on Toxic Release Inventory submissions

BATON ROUGE – The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has announced their membership in the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) Data Exchange, which allows facilities to meet the federal requirement for making annual TRI submissions to state agencies upon submitting the data to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Facilities in Louisiana that are required to submit a copy of their annual Toxic Release Inventory to DEQ will automatically do so when they submit their data to the Environmental Protection Agency via the EPA's TRI-ME web system. This eliminates the need for facilities to submit their TRI annual reports to both EPA and DEQ separately. However, facilities choosing to submit via paper copy or via CD copy still must report to both EPA and DEQ separately.

“By joining the data exchange, DEQ is helping business to reduce the cost of compliance without affecting data availability to the public,” said DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch. “This new development will streamline the reporting mandate for both DEQ and EPA while also benefitting business.”

Section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) requires that EPA establish a Toxics Release Inventory of toxic chemical emissions from certain manufacturing facilities nationwide. Under Federal law, facilities are also required to provide copies of their inventory to appropriate state agencies. The TRI database is publicly available and contains information on toxic chemical releases and other waste management activities that are reported annually by certain industry groups and federal facilities. EPA has established a number of resources on its Web site designed to assist facilities with reporting their emissions, as well as providing query tools to assist in community-based decision making.